



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0905

December 4, 2009

The Honorable Larry Cretul
Speaker of the House
Florida House of Representatives
513 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

The Honorable Jeff Atwater
Senate President
Florida Senate
312 Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

The Honorable Charlie Crist
Governor of the State of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Speaker Cretul, Senate President Atwater, and Governor Crist,

We would like to applaud the Florida Legislature for meeting in special session. The bill being considered would provide dedicated funding for commuter and high speed rail in our state and would result in tremendous job creation and economic growth. We share your vision of a statewide policy for rail and urge the Legislature to negotiate in good faith and act accordingly. If Florida does not provide a dedicated funding source for existing and future rail projects, the prospects for receiving federal high speed rail funding diminish greatly.

Without statewide support for rail, will essentially be sending billions and billions of federal dollars to other states while forfeiting our own chance to build high speed rail, the next generation of regional transportation systems. We stand ready to assist you in your efforts to support rail and the transportation advantages and economic impact it will bring to the State of Florida.

Sincerely,

Bill Nelson
United States Senator

George S. LeMieux
United States Senator